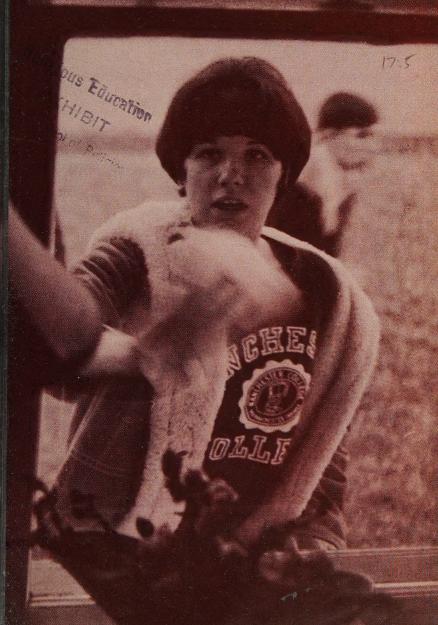
Stay where the action is . . . in your own home town!





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Cover photo by H. Ahrens



"'The minutes of the last meeting we read and accepted.' Isn't that we deful? That sort of gets me inhere!"



"This is church clean-up day . . . moved the lawn, scrubbed the steps and raked all the leaves. Now I'm cleaning the minist glasses!"

HERE THE ACTION IS ...

bu don't need to go far to find tre the action is. Kind deeds heal ands—next door or overseas. And don't need to make a big splash be helpful. Little things—like ning windows-count big.

very community has "sore spots" which healing. These "sore spots" may vithin yourselves—personal prejuthoughtlessness, ingrained pracof discrimination, blind accepe of unchristian behavior. Others bwn share your concern for heal-

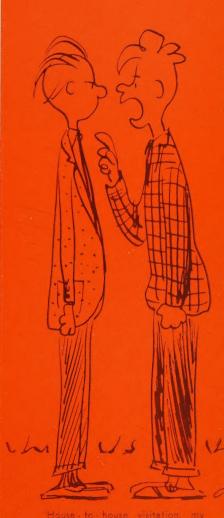
There is much to be done and can share in the doing. Action s many forms—thoughtful study, peration with others, volunteertime and service, changes in per-I attitudes, active participation in ical or social pressure to achieve stian ideals.

here is help needed? Ask any of the wing: School counselors, city soworkers, your minister, the Red s, probation officers, visiting es, hospitals, organizations aiding ority groups, Juvenile Courts, ily Service, Children's Aid, police h bureaus, YMCA, etc. Or knock any door—starting right in your home.

ffer your help, not in anger, but love. In seeking to evaluate the ls of your community and to deline your action, do so with under-

ding and compassion.

ave you a story to tell? Has your h group already found where the on is? How about that teen club our school? Or your youth fellowat Church? Or your scout troop? your local youth council? Do they a story worth sharing? If so, us a letter describing what your ip did.





Operation Knock Knock opens na



All photos by H. Ahrens

"First, they sort of go into shock," smiles Bill DuMond. "I guess they're not used to teenagers knocking on their door and asking if they've got some work we can do for them for free! They stare at us as if to say, 'What hole in the ground did you crawl out of?'"

People seem surprised, even suspicious, of anyone—especially a teenager—who offers to work for nothing. That's the experience of a Brethren Youth Fellowship in Elkhart, Ind., whose members volunteer their services among neighbors in a door-to-door project called "Operation Knock Knock." But once the teens get their foot inside the door to help, the surprise of their neighbors turns to satisfaction.

"We got the idea from some college kids we know," reports Fred Humphrey. "And we've done it about four or five times so far during this school year. We generally do it on a Saturday morning and afternoon. We divide into small teams and go unannounced into nearby neighborhoods. Each team goes down a street, knocks on doors, and asks if they have any jobs that need to be done which we can do for them free of charge."

"After the initial shock wears off," Bill continues, "they're surprised. Then they say they don't have anything for us to do. We talk a little more, perhaps suggesting that we could wash windows, rake leaves, or mop floors. But they still don't want us. We thank them and leave. Even though they re-

fuse, I think they're pleased that we asked."

"Lots of people would rather do it themselves," Fred

chimes in. "They think it's too much like charity."

"At first some people question our intentions," interjects Dennis Eller. "Then, when we tell them we're from the Church of the Brethren over at the corner of Wolf and Benham Avenues and that we have an adult leader with us, they mellow a little. We have no problem finding enough jobs to keep us busy all day."

"Lots of times when we go out," says Barbara Wentz, "people—especially older people—don't have anything for us to do, but they want us simply to talk to them. I guess it makes them feel younger to talk with kids. It gives them a link. They say, "Come back again. You don't need to work. Just

come and talk."

In response to a question about why he feels Operation Knock Knock is important, the group's president, Charles Wagner, replies, "It helps to combat the bad image people have of teenagers. Most middle-aged adults haven't seen any teens lately. All they've seen is the kid who's out cruising on the main drag. On the other hand, if there's a youth who wants to come to his house and to help him out, the adult sees a good side to teenagers, too."

"I'm afraid we live in a pretty cold world," Dennis observes. "And sometimes by going out and doing something

like this, it helps make life more bearable."

Helping others is not new for the youth at this Elkhart church. Their service efforts include making trips to the Nappanee (Ind.) Church World Service Center to process clothes for overseas relief, keeping the church's sidewalks clean of snow, helping serve suppers, aiding in toy repairs at Christmas, and responding when needed. When a recent tornado hit the Elkhart area, the youth helped to collect stray chickens and personal property strewn across fields and to burn a wrecked barn.

A quick glance through copies of their monthly newsletter, Youth-ful, shows other activities scheduled—ranging from fun and sports to thought-provoking programs. Under the adult leadership of counselors Hal and Garnett Heeter, the teens find involvement in church programs on all levels—from local through regional to national. They hope to send 23 of their 46 members to the denominational National Youth Conference in Ithaca, N. Y., this summer. This means raising \$1000, which they've been doing by growing corn and potatoes, washing cars and a house, and holding work days, and box socials. Depending on the season, the group likes to toboggan, roller skate, bowl, swim, play basketball or tenns, bike hike, and the like.

"What I like about the kids in this group," says Charles, "is that they let themselves have fun. So many teenagers don't."

"What do you mean?"

"The kids here aren't afraid to let their hair down and to do the things that are really fun for kids. Most people think it's lowering themselves to have fun this way. But in our

group, we just act nuts and have a good time."

Hal, a public school teacher who works as a volunteer recreation leader in the community, says, "Many older teenagers seem to feel that the only way to have fun is to do those things which are more adult. Yet, in our group here, we find that when we work and play together, we seem to enjoy each other's company and fellowship. Our young people are really more their normal teen-age selves, rather than putting on airs to impress somebody."

In giving counsel to other groups which might want to tackle Operation Knock Knock, Hal suggests that any group





Elkhart teens talk with one person, are refused by another, clean out a gutter, and wash windows—all part of one day's Operation Knock Knock.





which tries this project "must show a lot of enthusiasm when they start the project in any home. I'm certain that those ladies where we worked today could see how much these kids were enjoying their work."

"I think the big thing is not to make the person being helped feel like he's really receiving something," says Charles. "Make the person feel like a human being and that he's not

accepting charity."

"Go to the homes of people you don't know," advises Bill, the minister's son. "It's more effective when a stranger offers another stranger help."

Why do they go unannounced?

"I love to see those people open their mouths and not know what to say," jokes Fred. "But seriously, if the people know in advance that we're coming, they might be ready with a long list of jobs they'd saved for us to do. And that would spoil the spirit of the project."

"If people don't know you're coming," Dennis observes, "I think it's more genuine when you find someone who wants

you to do something for them."

"For a group just trying this for the first time," Dennis counsels further, "it might be a good idea to combine it with some other activity—like a supper or party afterwards. You'd

get better turnouts that way.'

"Kids are reluctant to do this project because it's a new idea," explains Bill. "Going around doing jobs for nothing—I don't know—it kind of gets you at first. Some of the kids think we're nuts or something. But then after you've tried it a few times, you change your ways, and you really get it bad."

"When I first started," Barbara confides, "I wasn't really hepped up about it. But now I think I've learned to give a little of myself. Actually, this project helps me more than the person I do work for. Maybe it seems like just a little job, but you are giving a little of yourself and your time to somebody else, not because you're forced to, but because you want to. And besides, you learn more about the kids you think you know and about your leaders."

"What did you learn about your leaders?"

"They're a riot!"

"What did you learn about your friends?"

"They're a riot, too!"



Working for others is fun, too! After an afternoon of Operation Knock Knock, it was time for choir practice.



When we picketed the church

BY DAVID HAGERBAUMER / We teens had a problem at our church in Quincy Ill. We needed more adult leadership for the 45 high school young people in our church school department. We had only three teachers. The new curriculum in our church had caused us to lose many teachers whom we needed badly and as a result there were many more students in a class that could be properly taught, not only in our department but in all of the Our minister and our board of Christian education had tried to recruit new teachers, but no one wanted to give up their time. And so we felt it was time for "youth" to take some action.

One Sunday as we were talking about our problem, I presented to tagroup my idea, which at the time seemed quite ridiculous. Why not hold teen-age demonstration to get new teachers? At first the other kids though it was quite a funny idea. But as we worked with other ways of getting teachers, we always ended up right back at the same plan for picketing. When we finally thought this idea through, the students and the teacher went wild. This was going to be a success, I could see it from the start.

The first sign made was by our department superintendent; he was for tall the way. From that first sign till the hour we marched was but a matter of time. The kids pitched in and everyone made a sign, even the other to teachers.

It came time for us to march, but cold feet set in and we started thinking. What will our minister say, for this was to be a surprise on him, well as on the rest of the congregation? What would the people do? Would they laugh at us or would they take us seriously?

Church finally let out that Sunday morning and there we were, cold fe and our signs. At first the people didn't really grasp what we were don



pple started asking questions

then they read our signs and, much to our surprise, they took an interin our cause and asked us questions about our church school and our ses. We were overjoyed! The people were interested, but now we had ace our minister. Our cold feet turned to blocks of ice. There he was ching us. I walked up to him and asked him what he thought. He said

as wonderful, and that it should have been done sooner.

The president of our church council was collecting extra programs after rich when our minister rushed up to him and said that our church was ag picketed. In the next ten seconds our president had thrown his proms all over the church and was outside asking what the church had done what the demonstration was about. Needless to say, he was quite shook. This demonstration gave us students in the congregation confidence that too, can do something in the church and be successful. The people in congregation seemed to enjoy seeing us take an active part in the afset of our church. This showed me that the adults in our church, and in st congregations, are waiting to see what the youth will do and can do you want to see the younger generation, as they would say it, be intered and be informed of the problems at hand.

Ve feel that our demonstration was successful and that in the future we be better able to take a stand on a problem in our church which we strongly about or which affects us directly. We like to think that the th of Salem United Church of Christ are on the move. Any group of

th can be, and every group should be.

What were the results of our demonstration? Six new teachers came out many old ones returned to classes once again. I am happy that we ld do this for our church.









ANNOUNCER: "Blondie" by Chic

Young.

(Theme music fades in, up, under.) ANNOUNCER: The scene is the Bumstead's bathroom. Blondie is in the hall speaking to Dagwood who is taking a bath.

(Dog barks. Sound of knock on

door.)

BLONDIE: Dagwood, have you seen the new tube of toothpaste I bought? (Sound of water splashing.)

BLONDIE: It's in a red and blue

tube.

(Sound of Water—Sound Stops) DAGWOOD: Toothpaste? I thought it was shampoo. No wonder it wouldn't lather! (Dog barks. Blondie laughs. Music fades up and out.) What's going on?

It's "Operation Comic Strip"—a project of Eastside High School, Patterson, N.J.—where since 1962 the Student Council has been tape recording comic strips and comic books for the blind.

The idea for recorded comies belongs to Joseph Frank, director of activities at Eastside, who lost his sight several years ago as a result of meningitis. "While making use of taperecorded books supplied by organizations for the blind," Mr. Frank said, "it came to me that while everything from the Bible to James Bond mysteries were available on tape, no one had recorded the daily comic strips that people with sight take for granted. They're part of the fun in life that sightless people never see."

So, be approached the Student Council and several clubs at school—and found some enthusiastic help. The Board of Education supplied tape recorders, the high school loaned the soundproof band room for recording sessions, and the students took over the task of raising money to buy tapes—including donating the proceeds from the Student Council bookstore.

Actual production of a tape is a complicated project—sound effects and appropriate theme music have to be recorded on one machine, (recording the music is the work of the Eastside Band). On a second tape, the actors record the dialogue with plenty of narration to help the listener understand what is happening between scenes and in places where there is no dialogue. Finally, on a third recorder, sound effects, theme,

often an oppressive, humorless is no vacation — except in the ire Feeding the imagination of blind children is a paterson; in the Darki? School paper corwhich is a quality highlight in

A Little Laugh

For Entertains

comic strips runs for 50 mintres Sis Of Blind me ded

School Childre

tions his "actors" to "make up in sound for what these blind children can't see.

"All visual expressions have to be brought out through your voice." Frank tells his volunteers.

You have to make your voice denote excitement, fear or whatever emotion the comic strip calls for."

The taped comics

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ve no

New Type
Teen-age st
tt is all done on the control of the control

Record P

"Until Operation Comic k to Strip came along," said Joseph Farrell, principal of School No. runs 2, "there was no known source of wo from which to obtain drama ing the tizations of comics. The tapes er were a welcome addition to the in recreational program of our omic Braille students."

Operation Comic Strip has from drawn the attention of the White House and the Department of Health, Education and sold welfare. Now Frank hopes to strips interest other schools or server server groups throughout the shan

dramatized comics are combined produce the finished product.

eginning as freshmen and sophoes, with "bit" parts, students hually work up to the harder draic roles and the narrator's part. er students work on recording the nd effects, and on choosing the nics to be dramatized.

o produce a 50-minute tape takes ut four hours of work. More than students, freshmen to seniors,

k on the project after school, at it, and during summer vacation. nic strips that are complete in nselves are recorded every two ks, but serial strips are done once nonth. Every comics tape begins 1 the school alma mater and ends

n a list of the student actors. 'inished tapes are mailed in spely marked "Operation Comic p" boxes to Tarvar Memorial Liv for the Blind (which distributes tapes nationally), to several N.J. nes and camps for the blind, and he Library of Congress.

lesides producing over 300 reels tape-recorded comics, "Operation nic Strip" has won national recog-

m and acclaim.

raduates have taken the idea of ration Comic Strip with them to eges and universities across the on, where similar projects have n set up. To help others get ted, Mr. Frank has prepared data ets explaining the project step-by-. He often lends sample tapes to rested groups.

o, if you ever enter Eastside High, 't be surprised to hear a voice "O.K., Pruneface, drop it. This

Dick Tracy."

th the Operation blind Comic Strip

1 thoughtfuli talk about d the son it comes art 's nothing You give hey shape

Frank hovering olind ho were typeting th and

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are teache nd 47 differen tivities with ticipating Sc ven given up eep the progr. see, there still icated teachers dark - eyed i point and light s sleeve

(Editors — Jo Frank has been a m the Eastside High Scho for 16 years. An attacl ingitis while he was de uate work at the Uni Pennsylvania School of try canceled out his cathat line and he ente teaching profession. Sago he was stricken w ness, an aftermath of I illne-s. He continued for four years, and ro points for doctoral ed for directorship in gui he was named director activities. He lost of months when he was

William White, principa side High School.) Students who parti "Operation Comic Stri Emily Doan chairman ing the Student Counce Willer representation

stricken with blindness

its his quick comeback

people around me, th

school and my wonder He is married to the fo

Fina Geraldi, who is se

adjustment to "the

Eastside H going on a

"The rewards are amazing," co added Bruce Vilanch, a senior. tion who was playing the part of May. Hop Sing for the tape of a 1 of Bonanza comic book. "Just Pat- seeing the kids light up when uced they hear Little Joe, or Hoss :-re- is wonderful. There are no amic strips in braille." reived

Joseph T. Frank, director of he self-su student activities and himself blind for six years, outlined the unique project: The kids wanted to do something difnable dire at Easts ferent for the community, to o in the af help some group in a way they had never been helped before. ack of men

So, we came up with Operaion Comic Strip.

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iHabla inglés? In Artes

Imagine if you can walking into one of our large super markets with its rows and rows of coined goods, and not being able to read a single laber. Or imagine being isked to fill out a job application and having to turn ovar because you cannot read or write. Maybe you think such conditions done exist in our modern up to date world.

More to the point of you discovered such a situation what would you do about it?

When Cir' Scout Treop #14 of Artesia, New Mexico started to think about some sort of committee project, they discovered the above situation



M., the answer is "Si!"

but in their own community. Approximately 30r of the population of town was of Mesonii discent and many of the arbitry constituting that entage had not learned English. Further, the wonty discovered there in classes in help these people form English nor wore then public to available to set up any classes. Realizing that their Special-Americamater at a book were handleapped has some English was not conferance. hen beanny. Troop = 14 decided to coter total a program of tracting lich in the community.

"har's hardred to such a project?" What to needed hour, that books of



The first group of graduates recei

course, and then, teachers. After investigating suitable materials the scort decided to use the Laubach method, a teaching method which combine words and pictures to teach language skills. Then knowing they would need added help the guls visited local community groups cehurch groups. Rotary Club, etc., to explain the project and enlist other teachers. And before the project began, they conducted a six hour workshop for all the volunteer teachers on how to use the Laubach method.

So, the project got under way. It was advertised through the cooperation of the local radio station, newspaper, and community groups. Support

came from everywhere.

The first right 27 students registered and by the end of six months the project had a total of 74 students. One of the first registrants, a 64 year ok man, asked anxiously as his registration card was filled out—"Am I too old."

One lady was so eager to learn that even when she had a baby she only missed four lessons. Classes were held on Friday evenings in the summer and on Tuesday evenings in the fall. Most students, like the pregnant lady were very faithful, rarely missing a session.



r diplomas

On Jone 15, 1965, a graduation accounty was held his those unidents who had animpleted the hos of the those readers

In addition to the regular course books, the sounts brought supplement for materials they fell would be of help to the students. These schedulpamplifets on efficiently and government spelling books, and newspapers.

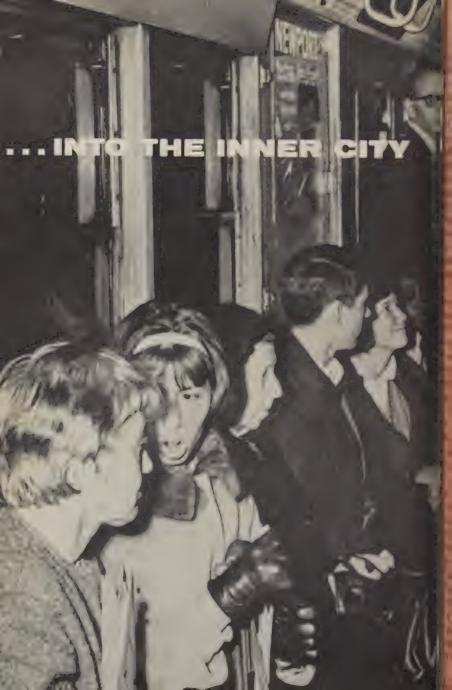
After each meeting, students and teachers pathered together in a circle to salute the flag and sing—theo graing the students a chance to practice their English.

The troop believes that the rewards they have received from this project for exceed those which they have given. Moreover, they test this has been the most colorable and rewards interproject which they have ever one dortaken—expecially in terms if serving their community in a way in which it really received to be neved.

arms this services to their community which were national recognition for at Troup #14 when Pursels Magazine awarded them third place in a Yanth Group Arhievement Awards.

that mer of girly belong to Scout Troop =147. These 26 scouts are all outs at Artesia High School and none of the businest tree-sagers to all Bouldes theoretical activities, they are members of church groups, the lost executal, French Clots, Special Clots, Pop Chen, America Staff, Americand Service Portice Roomes Lesalers, Fortion Transfers, Barrison office assured groups. One girl traveled to Albuquerique, N.M., but more at he court appears for training and then service as a voluntiest solar at a course to contrade a challent. Twenty members of the froign interfluided and weeks training course for Norses Aids and will cook a missimum of 50 hours of service to the local hospital.

has Girl Scrait Transp = 24 of Artesia, N.M. is seeking to serve their meanity. There, in turn, would not your "What's the need in your hone."



on the big city may larile its stants but it is men more of a line out-of-town visitors. Over sew Your's weekend, 50 white vegro Episcopal trenagers were to a pinneer five-day interful conference in New York City day "the city" and its problems placing were teen age leaders in sex in the Diocese of Termessee, sem Virginia Missessippi, Upper Carolina and New York.

that this visitors like boat? The ty—when it was rouning and Transport Workers United tent Michael Quill set off a ding citywide sulway and bus

w did they think the church had need their thinking to race rec? By luving them mingle to at a conference dance, in the ins, as roommates (Negro and boxs were assigned moms tor at the nearby Hotel Paris) and g after-hours full assions, they The experience of living tor, one white youth from a fashle New York unburb concederly something of a surprise. He himself more and more inwith Negro boys at the cone which had humbinaters at arhedral of St. John the Divine. emberence was sponsored by the Department of the Executive all of the Episcopal Church,

e textlinok his the get-together that we Cock provocative hard. Secolar City, in which the author that "we must learn to speak of in a secolar fashion" to reach people. Trenagers, chaperoned dalk, not only tested the Cox to what they saw in Harlem.



where they visited Exodus House, a narcotics treatment center, among other places, but what they observed in Manhattan churches, the automat, in the subway during the "rush hour." on Fifth Avenue and in Times Square on New Year's Eve. A New York psychiatric consultant led a discussion on "Adolescent Freedom and Responsibility in an Urban Society."

According to Canon Walter D. Dennis, Jr., a Negro on the cathedral staff, several youth from wealthy New York suburbs were invited because "they have had no more real integration than white kids from the South." The group from Upper South Carolina Diocese were all Negroes, those from Southern Virginia were white, and the rest were racially mixed.

In their own words, one Negro girl and two white boys gave the following observations:

Deborah Harmon, 17, of Memphis, Tenn., said, "I've been shocked at the things I've seen in New York but I like what I see. I wouldn't stay here, because I don't see how people are people here—they don't care. They throw paper on the sidewalk and they have 'Don't Walk' signs and it's noisy. We're friendly in Memphis and, yes, we have interracial things and they seem to work just fine. In race relations, it depends on the people who make the start, who make the first impressions. . ."

David Hornsby Bowditch 17, of Yorktown, Va., reported, "I think in the last four years that my views have changed considerably about race. I'm glad of it, and I've met some great colored people. Of course, I come from a Southern family—although Virginia is a border state and things are changing fast there—and





A. Hansen

never lived with a Negro, aving been placed with a may be somewhat arti-... but not completely." Weiss, Newport News, Va.

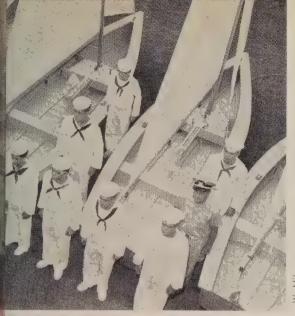


four years ago I might have felt that Negroes are inferior, won't work and are always demanding something. But a combination of things have helped me change. We still haven't solved the racial problem in the church itself. . . . But I think, from what I can see, this conference has been very effective. . . . I still have some barriers, for instance dancing, and it takes time to break them. . . ."

David M. Hart, 17, of Yorktown Heights, N. Y., observed, "My roommate at the conference was a Negro from Jackson, Miss., and I've never met any Negroes from Mississippi. I've found they're more like kids in the North than I thought. With all the prejudice that's going on, I'd imagine they'd feel pretty strongly against whites. But we had a lot of fun together, and I was very relaxed with them. It was surprising. . . . I think that because the kids here are connected with the church, they follow what the church says. I don't think they're prejudiced."

-R.N.S.





blems—a scouting "challenge"

ave you ever spent a day on your knees in traffic?

Tembers of Sea Explorer Ship Challenge #5955 have—for as part of an hasis on traffic safety they participated with the Traffic Safety Council

ettering crossings on main thoroughfares.

ut, this is only a small part of the many activities of the Challenge—a t unit, sponsored by the Edison Park Lutheran Church of Edison Park, ois, which in its eight years of existence has been selected four times as number one Explorer and Sea Explorer Scout unit in the Chicago area. hat makes this such an outstanding group of scouts? One answer can ound by looking at their purpose. The Ship has as its objective "to proopportunities for boys of all faiths to accept the adult responsibilities of toward their community, its peoples, and their neighbors." And in ing to implement this objective the group of about 30 Sea Explorers been involved in a wide variety of community and church projects vthing from conducting worship and caroling in hospitals to marchin the 4th of July parade, as well as involving each individual scout in v one-man, every-day tasks.

Traffic safety is a major problem these days, and the Scouts have hell several projects in this area, besides their street painting. They organized a bicycle safety campaign for younger children and have set up special automobile safety warnings on major holidays. In addition, being Sea Explored water safety is also of major concern to them, and recently they conducted a boating safety demonstration for the National Safety Council's Youth Congress.

But, the Ship's activities have included much more than safety program. The Scouts have been active in a program of teaching swimming as water safety to mentally and physically handicapped children. On a voluteer basis, they have donated their Saturday mornings to this special project.

As Sea Explorers the Ship meets regularly for classes in navigation, seemanship, drill, and formal ceremonies. Once a month they meet for mark manship instruction at a rifle range. And, as part of their group, they have

organized a Chanteymens Chorus.

And as Sea Explorers they operate on water as well as on land. But a do this, one must have ships—and the Challenge's greatest "challenge" since 1963 has been "Operation Windmill." With the help of their adult officers the scouts have built a fleet of six Windmill Class sloops—working two evenings a week, plus Saturdays, for a two-year period on this project. With their finished sloops, they participated last year in the Chicago Nationa Boat Show. Projected plans now call for some more additions to this basis fleet.

Being seamen also involves meeting sailors from other ports, so when the Norwegian Training Ship, Christian Radich, was visiting in Chicago this pas year, the scouts experimented in international relations, acting as hosts to the Cadets from this square rigger. Although the Cadets were the same agas the Explorers, the scouts found that the experience of having sailed ship on the long journey across the Atlantic made the Norwegian boys seem several years older in many respects. The scouts tried to give the Cadets in picture of American life by bringing them to their neighborhood for a morning of sports, some sightseeing, an afternoon swim, and a neighborhood "typical American" picnic, with paper plates and home-made food. The Cadets were also pleased to find some Americans of Norwegian descent win could converse with them in their own language.

Blended into this program of community and church service are Saturday sailing sessions on the lake, special week-end cruises, and many plan

for the future.

It is because of this varied program that the Sea Explorer Ship Challenge #5955 has sailed away with a *Parents* Magazine Youth Achievemen Award for three years in a row.



Above: Caroling at Christmas. Below: The Cadet-scout picnic.







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/E EXPECTED THEM ALL) BE LIKE EINSTEINS, T THEY WERE JUST LIKE US.''

NANCY JENKS AND PENNY DEMAREST / One way to rstand other people is to meet them. And so, our youth fellow-invited a group of teenagers, whose parents work at the United ons Secretariat, to visit our North Church (United Church of t) in Amherst, Mass., for a weekend in October. Our purpose to broaden our understanding of the world and its peoples and ake new friends.

nce this was a pioneering venture for us and for the U.N. Secre-; we were not sure how to plan. Not knowing what the ints of our guests would be, we planned what appealed to us, hoped it would also appeal to them. On Saturday, October 31, vent to meet the group who had come from New York City by : Eleven young people representing Pakistan, Holland, Argen-

Austria, Greece, Formosa, France, and the U.S.A.

e were nervous about meeting them. We thought they'd be formal. I guess we expected them to be "different"—sort of isticated "Einsteins," or something! And so, when we picked up at the train, we didn't say much. But as we who were drove our guests home, we pointed out places we were passing chatted about our town in a matter-of-fact style. Our parents the same fears we did. But, one mother said, "When Sylvia (a h girl) came in and said, 'Man, this is rural!,' I knew we'd get just fine!"

ne of the boys reported, "As we sat down to eat our lunch, my its drilled our guest on what his interests were in life and after ad answered, he threw a few questions at us. And we had a

solid relationship right then—something to build on."

turday afternoon we all went to a football game between the ersity of Massachusetts and the University of Vermont. Some ir visitors had never seen a football game before. Then everyhad the evening meal with host families and returned to the ch that night for a Hallowe'en party with a scavenger hunt, ing for apples, a local folk singer, and dancing. We had cider doughnuts—we'd made ten gallons of cider ourselves earlier in veek. The party brought the group together.

nday morning was free, with many of our guests attending ch with their host families. We found out that while these young le are pretty Americanized, they usually did stick to the re-

ligion of their parents and country. In the afternoon, we all gathered in the parsonage for a discussion, which covered everything from the U.N. International School, which most of our guests attend, to world politics. Although we were not afraid to discuss international issues, we seemed to find a common meeting point when we discussed those things closest to all of us—school, sports, families, college and vocational decisions.

Most of their parents are international civil servants. And, like any other civil servant, their primary loyalty is to the United Nations rather than to the country from which they come. Many of the kids who visited us want to do international work—like for the U.N.

-when they finish school.

And their lives are so international! One boy told of visiting his grandmother in Czechoslovakia. Others told how their families preserve some cultural customs in their home life. Having been born in the United States, one boy spoke of wrestling with the decision to keep his U. S. citizenship or to become a Greek citizen—he was leaning toward Greece! And when we discussed college, two girls talked very normally about applying to the Sorbonne University in Paris. (After all, when we in the U. S. think of college, we think of going to school nearby—or maybe going as far away as Ohio—but never going abroad for college!)

But they all seemed to be very much at home in the U.S.—perhaps even more so than in their own lands. We had expected them to be different. And they weren't. There was as much apathy, commitment, seriousness and hilarity in their group as in any group of kids. For example, some were really knowledgable about international affairs and others couldn't care less—the same as in our

group. All of this came as a surprise—and a relief—to us.

After a potluck supper at the church, we took our guests to the train station for their return trip to New York City. By this time, we were not two groups, but one. We realized that our time together had been much too short for all of the things we'd discovered we wanted to do together and to talk about. Most of our parents came to see the visitors off.

As a last-minute thought, we gave our visitors a jug of our apple cider to take back with them. There was much hilarity passing the jug around and then waving it from the window as the train pulled out. And in our reluctance to part, some of us almost got pulled onto the moving train.

At school the next week, their visit was all we talked about.

Since that weekend, we've been writing back and forth and planning more trips. We'd like to have them come again and we've been talking about going to New York to visit them there. But the next time it won't be like having strangers visit—it will be like visiting old friends.

At the Hallowe'en party, the two groups became one.





Photos by Dick Fisk

